[Translation]

Livestock Policy

2560. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2597 and state :

(a) whether the draft National Livestock Policy has been discussed with the State Ministers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the States from which recommendations have been received in this regard; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Draft National Livestock Policy and approach to livestock development in the Ninth Plan were, discussed at the Conference of the State Ministers for Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The views of State Governments have been received. The policy formulation exercise needs the widest possible consultations and all initiatives are being made to evolve the Policy after such consultations.

[English]

Post Harvest Techniques

2561. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large quantity of foodgrains are wasted due to non-utilisation of necessary post harvest techniques by the producers;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any projection of this wastage;

(c) whether the Government have made any efforts to develop a favourable technique to avoid this loss of foodgrains in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) No firm estimates of wastage of foodgrains in the country due to non-utilisation of necessary post-harvest techniques by the producers are available. However, according to one of the Working Groups set up for the formulation of 9th Five Year Plan, it is estimated that about 2% of the total foodgrains production in the country is wasted in post-harvest period.

(c) and (d) Research programmes have been initiated for minimising losses during post-harvest operation through improved techniques of foodgrains storage pest control and their extension, development of designs of improved storage structures, code of practices for grain preservation, disinfestation techniques, fabrication of proto-types, data collection, testing and standardisation of the grain quality, technology transfer through training, extension and publicity etc. The Government is also implementing a regular plan scheme "Save Grain Campaign" since 1969-70, to educate, motivate and persuade the farmers and others to adopt the scientific measures for minimising the foodgrains losses.

Illegal Felling of Trees

2562. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SATYAJITSINGH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the series of special reports captioned "Plunder of our Forests" appearing in Indian Express from January 22, 1997 onwards;

(b) whether as reported illegal felling of trees had gone up fourfolds in UP over the past 10 years;

(c) if so, the reasons for the growth in illegal felling of trees in other States and Union Territories during the past decade indicating estimated cost of the trees; and

(d) the specific steps taken to curb and contain the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Minority Status to J&K Migrants

2563. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "J.K. Migrants want minority status" appearing in India Express dated January 22, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Kashmir Samiti has demanded minority status in Jammu and Kashmir State;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken in this regard?